

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] would vote "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 267 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Akaka	Frahm	Mack
Bennett	Frist	McCain
Biden	Glenn	McConnell
Bingaman	Gorton	Mikulski
Bond	Graham	Moseley-Braun
Boxer	Gramm	Murray
Breaux	Grams	Nickles
Burns	Grassley	Pell
Campbell	Gregg	Pressler
Coats	Hatch	Reid
Cochran	Heflin	Robb
Coverdell	Hutchison	Rockefeller
Craig	Inhofe	Roth
D'Amato	Inouye	Sarbanes
Daschle	Johnston	Shelby
DeWine	Kassebaum	Simpson
Dodd	Kempthorne	Smith
Domenici	Kyl	Stevens
Feinstein	Lieberman	Thompson
Ford	Lott	Thurmond

NAYS—37

Abraham	Faircloth	Lugar
Ashcroft	Feingold	Moynihan
Baucus	Harkin	Nunn
Bradley	Helms	Pryor
Brown	Hollings	Simon
Bryan	Jeffords	Snowe
Bumpers	Kennedy	Specter
Byrd	Kerrey	Thomas
Chafee	Kerry	Warner
Cohen	Kohl	Wellstone
Conrad	Lautenberg	Wyden
Dorgan	Leahy	
Exon	Levin	

NOT VOTING—3

Hatfield	Murkowski	Santorum
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The motion to lay on the table the amendment (No. 5178) was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. COHEN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5177, AS MODIFIED

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to modify my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5177), as modified, is as follows:

On page 104, below line 24, add the following:

SEC. 421. (a) PLAN.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a plan for the allocation of health care resources (including personnel and funds) of the Department of Veterans Affairs among the health care networks of the Department so as to ensure that veterans who have similar economic status and eligibility priority and who are eligible for medical care have similar access to such care regardless of the region of the United States in which such veterans reside.

(2) The plan shall—

(1) reflect, to the maximum extent possible, the Veterans Integrated Service Network developed by the Department to account for forecasts in expected workload and to ensure fairness to facilities that provide cost-efficient health care; and

(2) include—

(A) procedures to identify reasons for variations in operating costs among similar facilities where network allocations are based on similar unit costs for similar services and workload; and

(B) ways to improve the allocation of resources so as to promote efficient use of resources and provision of quality health care.

(C) adjustments to unit costs in subsection (a) to reflect factors which directly influence the cost of health care delivery within each Network and where such factors are not under the control of Network or Department management; and

(D) include forecasts in expected workload and consideration of the demand for VA health care that may not be reflected in current workload projections.

(3) The Secretary shall prepare the plan in consultation with the Under Secretary of Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) PLAN ELEMENTS.—The plan under section (a) shall set forth—

(1) milestones for achieving the goal referred to in paragraph (1) of that subsection; and

(2) a means of evaluating the success of the Secretary in meeting the goal.

(c) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress the plan developed under subsection (a) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall implement the plan developed under subsection (a) not later than 60 days after submitting the plan to Congress under subsection (c), unless within that time the Secretary notifies Congress that the plan will not be implemented in that time and includes with the notification an explanation why the plan will not be implemented in that time.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Florida, Senator GRAHAM, for all of his efforts on behalf of this amendment. It has been modified. We have worked with the administration.

Mr. President, since this amendment was accepted in the three previous years and then dropped in conference, the Senator from Florida and I felt that we should have a rollcall vote on this although I think that vote will be nearly unanimous since it is basically the same. It was accepted 3 years before.

So, Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Arizona, as modified. On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD], the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI], and the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] would vote "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 268 Leg.]

YEAS—79

Abraham	Feinstein	Mack
Akaka	Ford	McCain
Ashcroft	Frahm	McConnell
Bennett	Frist	Mikulski
Bingaman	Glenn	Moseley-Braun
Bond	Gorton	Nickles
Boxer	Graham	Nunn
Breaux	Gramm	Pell
Brown	Grams	Pressler
Bryan	Grassley	Pryor
Bumpers	Gregg	Reid
Burns	Hatch	Robb
Campbell	Heflin	Roth
Chafee	Helms	Sarbanes
Coats	Hollings	Shelby
Cochran	Hutchison	Simpson
Cohen	Inhofe	Smith
Conrad	Inouye	Snowe
Coverdell	Jeffords	Specter
Craig	Johnston	Stevens
D'Amato	Kassebaum	Thomas
Daschle	Kempthorne	Thompson
DeWine	Kerrey	Thurmond
Domenici	Kyl	Warner
Dorgan	Levin	Wyden
Exon	Lott	
Faircloth	Lugar	

NAYS—18

Baucus	Harkin	Lieberman
Biden	Kennedy	Moynihan
Bradley	Kerry	Murray
Byrd	Kohl	Rockefeller
Dodd	Lautenberg	Simon
Feingold	Leahy	Wellstone

NOT VOTING—3

Hatfield	Murkowski	Santorum
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The amendment (No. 5177), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, a motion to table the motion to reconsider is agreed to.

The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT

AGREEMENT—H.R. 3517 and H.R. 3845

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, September 5, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3517, the military construction appropriations bill; further that, there be 20 minutes for debate only, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the expiration of debate the conference report be temporarily set aside and the Senate proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3845, the D.C. appropriations bill, there be 10 minutes of debate only equally divided in the usual form, and that following debate the Senate proceed to a vote on the adoption of the military construction conference report, to be followed immediately by a vote on the adoption of the D.C. appropriations conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. So Senators should be aware, this agreement will allow for two consecutive rollcall votes in the morning, Thursday, at 10 a.m. We will